

Easter Newsletter 2019

A Message from our Minister....

WAITING FOR RESURRECTION

Some people don't like the season of Lent. I can remember a conversation with my mother many years ago, talking about how she found Lent to be a long season. Though we would often be away for at least two Sundays, during March break, the songs, prayers, and general penitential outlook made it feel like endless waiting. Perhaps the church had forgotten that Lenten Sundays were different.

Sundays in Lent are to be unlike our weekday practices. During the week, we might give something up to spend more time focusing on God. We might take on a practice like meditative prayer or perhaps doing something extra to relieve suffering in our community and the world. Sundays, however, are days of celebration. They are the days when we gather with others in the community to remember why we are waiting: resurrection.

While flying back from Texas last month I read a book called *Reclaiming Glory: Revitalizing Dying Churches*. Pastor Mark Clifton talks both in general about what happens when a dying church is in the process of revitalizing. He also tells of his specific experience with Wornall Road Baptist Church, Kansas City, Missouri, a once grand city church that was down to fewer than 20 people. In case one thinks "that can't happen here," Clifton starts by telling his reader that "70 to 80 of evangelical churches in North America are either plateaued or declining". Each year his denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention, sees about 900 congregations close. Declining congregations is no longer a mainline phenomenon.

Thinking about Clifton's book, I realize that often we focus on efforts in the wrong place. We try to add another program, send yet another letter to people who we haven't seen in several years, and add one more fundraiser to the calendar. Perhaps we have forgotten what resurrection is.

Resurrection is not about three simple steps to get back to the way things were. There is no going back to an imagined golden era. Things will never be the same as they were, at least not in our lifetime. The disciples had to learn this difficult lesson; life with the resurrected Jesus would be different. There was no going back to the days of following him along the by-ways of ancient Palestine.

Today Wornall Road Church is a healthy church, engaged in serving its surrounding community. It is still working towards its future, but through significant change it has significant hope. Most importantly, it has been resurrected; it's not the same church it was twenty-years ago.

What would resurrection look like for St. Mark's? What would your life be like if the old life was gone and you found yourself resurrected? Let me know.

Rev. Ryan

A Message from our Chair. . . .

As Board Chair, it is my pleasure to update you as to what the Board has taken on as a priority for 2019. This is to put together options so that at the Congregational meeting in February 2020 can make decisions on the future direction and mandate for our church community.

Your input on this future direction is critical in formulating these options. Therefore, I am asking that you become engaged in this conversation by letting the Board members know your ideas and suggestions for future.

St Mark's has been an integral part of our community for the last 167 years and your Board wants to make sure that this continues into the future. Your engagement in this process will certainly make that happen.

Jack Alexander



Palm/Passion Sunday – **April 14th, 2019 – 10:30 a.m.** worship at St. Mark's

Maundy Thursday – **April 18th, 2019 – Pot-luck supper – 6 p.m.** at St. Mark's

Good Friday – **April 19th, 2019 –10:30 a.m.** at Emmanuel Foxboro

Easter Sunrise & Breakfast – **April 21st, 2019 – 8:00 a.m.** at St. Mark's

Easter Morning Service – **April 21st, 2018 – 10:30 a.m.** at St. Mark's



We need your email address! If you have an email address and haven't given it to the secretary – please write in down on a piece of paper and place on offering plate or email secretary.stmarkscannifton@cogeco.net

Thank you!

Dear St. Marks Community

At the February Congregational meeting there was discussion regarding the providing of more frequent financial reporting to the congregation. Out of that discussion the board has decided that on a monthly basis we will provide a financial snapshot to everyone after our board meeting.

Outlined below is the financial snapshot at the end of March.

	Year to Date	2019 Budget	% of total
<u>Revenues</u>			
Offerings	\$ 20,768.00	\$ 94,000.00	22%
Fundraising	\$ 4,590.00	\$ 23,650.00	19%
Manse Fund	\$ -	\$ 14,000.00	0%
UCW	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	0%
Other Revenues	\$ 3,535.34	\$ 11,220.00	31%
	\$ 28,893.34	\$ 146,870.00	20%
<u>Expenses</u>			
Ministers Salary	\$ 18,709.90	\$ 75,725.00	25%
Staff Salaries	\$ 6,289.87	\$ 26,705.00	24%
Building Expenses	\$ 5,766.85	\$ 22,100.00	26%
Property Expenses	\$ 1,214.75	\$ 2,300.00	53%
Administrative	\$ 1,414.98	\$ 7,675.00	18%
Fundraising	\$ 3,945.25	\$ 13,150.00	30%
Other	\$ 1,792.52	\$ 9,215.00	19%
	\$ 39,143.12	\$ 156,870.00	25%
Net Income (loss)	-\$ 10,250.03	-\$ 10,000.00	102%
Church M&S Goal	\$ 3,864.00	\$ 10,000.00	39%
* At the end of March we look for percentages to be around 25%			

From the above chart I would make the following general observations:

- Offerings are currently 3% behind where we were hoping them to be at the end of March
- Expenses are on track based on our budget
- M&S offerings are 14% ahead of where they need to be at the end of March

David Clazie
Treasurer

What's Happening

In the St. Mark's Community

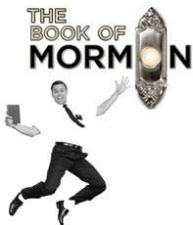
An Evening of Music, Fun and Fellowship: Saturday, April 27th at 6:30 p.m. Cathy Whalen and The Cruisers, as well as other guest will provide the music. Emcee for the evening will be radio personality Sean Kelly. Pie Auction during intermission. Free Will offering!



ELVIS

Elvis Superstar Showcase: Saturday, May 11th, 2019 at the Empire Theatre – Downtown Belleville - 7:30 p.m.

Showcase brought to you by King Attraction in co-operation with St. Mark's United Church. Tickets can be purchased at the Empire Theatre.



The Book of Mormon Bus Trip: Saturday, June 15th, 2019. Cost \$150/person. Please share with your friends and family and make this trip a huge success! **Last day to book and pay is April 25th.**